

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas WOOLSTON  
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Title : CONSIGNMENT NODES

Art Unit : Unknown  
Examiner : Unknown

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", insert:

--Cross-Reference To Related Applications

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/166,779, filed October 6, 1998; which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/554,704 filed November 7, 1995 and U.S. Serial No. 08/427,820, filed April 26, 1995; all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following new claims:

--11. A system for facilitating electronic commerce transactions comprising:  
means for interfacing a plurality of participants from a data packet  
communication network;  
means for verifying participant identification information;  
means for detecting participant user interface programs;  
means for providing access to a new user interface program to said plurality of  
users;  
means for receiving an offer from a first participant;  
means for receiving acceptance of an offer from a second participant;  
means for storing payment information associated with said transaction.